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Cohasset Marin

vol. I, no. 43

thursday, august 2, 1979

Selectmen Suspend Ptl. Feola Without Pa

By Judith Epstein

Selectmen this week suspended Patrolman Randolph Feola, Jr. without pay pending final court action on seven motor vehicle related charges. The vote was unanimous. Feola was suspended for

five days without pay last week, for conduct unbecoming a police officer, following his second arrest by Hull Police within three months for drunken driving. Feola appeared collected after the Selectmen's decision Tuesday night, but said, "If

they keep picking and choosing laws to apply to me and if they keep listening to Sgt. (Richard) Barrow, who's out to harrass me, they'll be in more trouble than I'm in." Local and Boston press covered the open hearing, which was held to ascertain

whether the suspension without pay was to be continued. Patrolman Feola sat with his father, Police Chief Randolph Feola. Selectmen had a stenographer on hand to record the hearing. Selectmen asked Feola at the start of the hearing if he

had any comments on the charges or the suspension. He responded, "I'm here as an observer, so my lawyer will know what went on. You're going to do what you're going to do."

Selectman Henry Ainslie pressed Feola for comment. "We can't expect clarification of anything by way of explanation if you don't want to talk. We want to give you full opportunity to explain your position. Feola didn't feel he had to defend himself, "I'm not on trial here. The court either verifies this or makes it null and void. This is not the place to explain, that place is in court."

"I have nothing to say regarding the charges. For me to discuss them now would be way out of order. This is the first time I've been invited before you, instead of being tossed back and forth like a volleyball," Feola continued. When asked by Ainslie if he had anything more to say on the matter of the suspension. Feola reiterated, "You're going to do what you're going to do."

Selectman Chairman Arthur Clark asked those in attendance if they had any questions concerning the hearing. One woman asked why Feola hadn't been dismissed and stated that she had been hearing about his misconduct for a year. She questioned if his Civil Service status within the Police Department was keeping him from being fired.

Ainslie said, "This is outside of Civil Service. Obviously, if we were to dismiss him in the future, then he could appeal. This would apply to any employee under Civil Service."

"We're following the law as strictly as we can," Clark said. Ainslie concluded that if Feola were to be found unfairly punished he would receive

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PLAYGROUND LINEUP at Osgood School, from up the fire escape down, includes Paul Stanford, Mark LaVange, Ted Johnson, Tyler Henderson, Adam Roma and Liam Stanford.
[Greg Derr photo]

The Legion Land, A Cobbled History

Two weeks ago the Planning Board approved a 33 lot subdivision for 70 acres off Forest St., also known as the Legion Land, owned by Dr. Roger Pompeo and Thomas Chamberlain of LesAnn Associates.

The land earned the name because it was left to the George Mealy Post 118 by August Petersen in 1942. The reason some people are upset about its sale and proposed development is the land has a legacy, if unofficial.

On Aug. 5, 1942, August Petersen wrote a letter to the Mealy Post confirming his oral statement made at the Cohasset Special Town Meeting of June 15, 1942 to dedicate 80

acres of his land on Forest Avenue deeded free and clear of all incumbrances to the George Mealy Post, American Legion.

The reason for the bequest, the letter states, was "for the use and purpose of providing without cost to any of the men from Cohasset serving overseas in any branch of our armed services on their return from the war, or who have so served in previous wars, or veterans who have not served overseas, but who, by a majority vote of the Trustees to be appointed by the George Mealy Post of Cohasset, are considered worthy of the accommodation and benefit to be derived from temporary or

permanent domicile on any part of the acreage controlled under such Trust.

If the George Mealy Post sees fit to accept this acreage, the foregone wordage is not to be considered conditions, but

merely suggestions." Petersen also recommended that the land provide benefit from "a recuperative standpoint," as a Legion Memorial Park, in part or whole, or perhaps part

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Profile Of Town Counsel Thaxter

By Judith Epstein

"Referred to Town Counsel J. Blake Thaxter, Jr." the article might read — how often have you seen that phrase?

Official and ominous as it may sound, Town Counsel Thaxter of Thaxter Beckwith

and Henderson, is an affable, sprightly fellow, with Yankee eyes, porcupine-cropped hair and a bow tie. He has the legal expertise and command of Dickens' Mr. Jiggers, and also happens to be capable of taking on as many different matters in a day, be they cases concerning the town or his

private practice, as Keyston Cops can go in and out of doors.

According to the town's bylaws a Town Counsel is appointed annually by the Board of Selectmen. Thaxter has enjoyed this appointment for nearly 20 years and hopes

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